

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: SCHONNENBECK, Gert

SERIAL NO.: 10/623,467

FILED: July 18, 2003

TITLE: TRACTOR HITCH TRANSMISSION



ART UNIT: 3682

EXAMINER: Charles, M.

AMENDMENT "A"

Director of the U.S. Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Sir:

In response to the Office Action of July 27, 2005, a response being due by October 27, 2005,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendment A: DRAWING AMENDMENTS

In FIGS. 2 and 3, delete the references "5 bar", "5 bar" and "18 bar" and therefrom.



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Sir:

In response to the Office Action of July 27, 2005, a response being due by October 27, 2005, please consider the following remarks:

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claims 1 - 9 have been canceled and new Claims 10 - 19 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the foregoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of placing the claim language into a more proper U.S. format.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that Claims 1 - 8 were rejected as being anticipated by the Hrazdera patent. Claim 9 was also rejected as being obvious over the Hrazdera patent in view of the Japanese patent. Claims 1 - 9 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The disclosure was objected to because of an informality on page 9, lines 8 and

11. The drawings were objected to because of the illustration of the values “5 bar” and “18 bar”. The Examiner also had an objection to the Information Disclosure Statement.

As an overview to the present reply, Applicant has amended the original claim language in the form of new Claim 10 - 18. New Claims 10 - 18 express the original limitations in a more proper U.S. format, including proper antecedent bases and proper structural interrelationships throughout. Any indefinite terminology found in the original claim language has been corrected herein. Additionally, Applicant has introduced new independent Claim 19 so as to positively recite the “tractor” and the “agricultural machine”. Where functional recitations are included, Applicant has included proper “means-plus-function” terminology.

Applicant notes that the Hrazdera patent only refers to the tractor. It does not refer to the agricultural machine that is meant to be mounted directly onto the tractor or a trailer pulled by a tractor. So as to distinguish the present invention from the Hrazdera patent, it is specifically recited in independent Claim 10 that the agricultural machine is separate from the tractor.

Applicant notes that it is well known in the art that tractors have a power take-off shaft. Any energy required by the agricultural machine is delivered from the tractor. Typically, the agricultural machine will be coupled to the take-off shaft of the tractor.

However, in the present invention, it is important to note that the drive train is actually particular to the agricultural machine and, accordingly, remains with the agricultural machine in the event of the machine is detached from the tractor. It is specifically recited in independent Claim 10 that the transmission is located on the agricultural machine and is integrated with the drive train of the agricultural machine. Since the transmission is installed on the agricultural machine, it can be detached from the tractor.

In contrast to the Hrazdera patent, it is important to note that the agricultural machine does not have any motor, by itself, in order to run the drive train. The agricultural machine must be coupled to the power take-off shaft from the tractor.

In the cited references, the drive train with a continuously variable conical-disk belt or chain transmission is part of the tractor. It is not part of the agricultural machine that is attachable or detachable to the tractor. On this basis, Applicant respectfully contends that independent Claim 10 is not anticipated by the Hrazdera patent. Additionally, those claims which are dependent Claim 10 should be also not be anticipated by the Hrazdera patent individually, or in combination with the Japanese reference.

Dependent Claims 11 - 18 correspond, respectively, to limitations of original Claims 2 - 9.

Applicant has revised the drawings herein so as to delete references to “5 bar” and “18 bar” in Figures 2 and 3. As such, the drawing objection should be overcome.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner relative to the use of the term “dosed” on page 9, lines 8 and 11. The term “dosed” is a common term that is used in association with the delivery of a hydraulic fluid to a receiving medium, such a transmission or a hydraulic cylinder. In other words, the term “dosed” refers to the volume of the liquid that is delivered to the receiving medium. This term is proper under the circumstances and should not be changed.

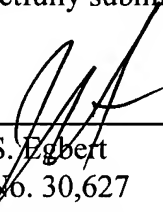
Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s analysis with respect to the failure to comply by the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 22, 2004. Under the new rules it is no longer required to provide a full copy of each reference cited in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Based upon the forgoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claim 10 is now in proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent upon Claim 10 should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no new claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

10-24-05

  
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